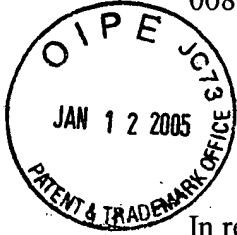


00862.022029.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
SHINGO NOZAWA, et al.)
Application No.: 09/685,008)
Filed: October 6, 2000)
For: IMAGE ENCODING METHOD)
AND APPARATUS)
Examiner: W. Chen
Group Art Unit: 2624
January 11, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document listed is enclosed.

Kondo, et al., "Automatic Human Face Detection and Recognition under Non-uniform Illumination", Pattern Recognition, Vol. 32, No. 10, pp. 1707-1718, October 1999.

The foregoing document was cited in the specification and it may be deemed relevant for the reason given therein.

This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal. Since the thus-refiled application has not yet

received a first Office Action, it is believed that the Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Kmett", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
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